

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner For Patents  
**MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the Examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.**

**Remarks** begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Conclusion** begins on page 3 of this paper.